

# Highlights

## EIA Improves Natural Gas Consumption Data Timeliness

The September 2004 *NGM* marks the first release of monthly natural gas consumption data on a more timely schedule. State-level price and volume estimates on natural gas sales and deliveries to residential, commercial, and industrial sectors will now be available 30 days earlier than in the past. The September 2004 issue contains consumption data for both June and July 2004.

With more timely natural gas consumption data available, EIA will now also provide National-level summary data series in Tables 1-4 one month earlier, including a complete National-level natural gas supply and disposition balance in Table 2. Because some data series comprising the balance are not available on this accelerated schedule, EIA will estimate for those series. Estimates will be derived from the following sources:

- *Short Term Energy Outlook (STEO)* forecasts are used to complete the National-level natural gas production data series (Table 1).
- Electric power industry forecasts from *STEO* will be used to complete the National-level consumption volume data series (Table 3). Data used to calculate State-level estimates of electric power sector consumption and prices are derived from a different set of surveys than those used for the residential, commercial and industrial sectors; at this time State-level volumes for the electric power sector will continue to lag by one month and prices by two months.
- Import and export data are estimated for recent months using data from the DOE Office of Fossil Energy and secondary sources.

For a further discussion of data sources, see the footnotes and appendices of the *NGM*. *STEO* forecasts are available from the *STEO* Query system located at [http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/STEO\\_Query/app/](http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/STEO_Query/app/).

This issue of the *Natural Gas Monthly (NGM)* contains more timely consumption data. The state and national-level estimates of natural gas volume and price data are presented through July 2004, although electric power prices are available through May 2004.

Recent analyses of the natural gas industry are available on the EIA web site, [www.eia.doe.gov](http://www.eia.doe.gov), under "Featured Topics" to the right side of the home page. The first two reports listed below are updated regularly. These reports are:

- *Weekly Natural Gas Storage Report* -- a weekly report containing estimates of natural gas in underground storage for the United States and three regions of the United States released each Thursday at 10:30 a.m. at the EIA Web site,

except for certain weeks with Federal holidays. The report, first released on May 9, 2002, contains estimates of storage for the current and prior week and comparisons to previous periods. Links are provided to papers describing survey Form EIA-912, "Weekly Underground Natural Gas Survey," and the estimation methodology.

- *Natural Gas Weekly Update* -- a current analysis of the industry each week, including information on natural gas spot and futures prices and storage activities. This page also provides links to numerous other EIA sites dealing with natural gas.
- *Short-Term Energy Outlook* -- projections of energy consumption, supply, and price by type of fuel, including natural gas, for the next 18 months.

# Highlights

In addition to the *NGM*, *STEO*, *Weekly Natural Gas Storage Report*, and *Natural Gas Weekly Update* which appear regularly on the EIA website, two new information products have recently been released:

- *U.S. Imports and Exports: Issues and Trends 2003*, which examines U.S. international trade of natural gas during 2003, as well as historical trends and an analysis of the near-term outlook for imports and exports.  
[http://www.eia.doe.gov/pub/oil\\_gas/natural\\_gas/feature\\_articles/2004/ngimpexp/ngimpexp.pdf](http://www.eia.doe.gov/pub/oil_gas/natural_gas/feature_articles/2004/ngimpexp/ngimpexp.pdf).

- *The Basics of Underground Natural Gas Storage*, which provides an overview of storage facilities and operations.  
[http://www.eia.doe.gov/pub/oil\\_gas/natural\\_gas/analysis\\_publications/storagebasics/storagebasics.html](http://www.eia.doe.gov/pub/oil_gas/natural_gas/analysis_publications/storagebasics/storagebasics.html)

Other natural gas data and analyses may be found through the “Natural Gas” section of EIA’s web site. In the center section of the home page, the user should place the cursor on “By Fuel,” then click on “Natural Gas” in the drop-down menu.